Distance education is emerging in many aspects of university education. Lecture broadcasts, delivery of course material and on-line tutor support are becoming standard applications of ICT in education. But especially in technical studies another important capacity of such technology in education is also to enable remote classroom and laboratory work.

We present a part of our results and experiences from technology supported distance education, especially when using video communication as an add-on. We first outline our implementation of the video supported web lecturing. It consists of indexed video stream, presentation slides and text subtitles. Then the remote laboratory examples with real-time video support is described. This distance experiment includes remote student work via WWW, handling of the laboratory process in real time and monitoring of the whole activity using a video camera.

The common denominator of the two examples is video streaming over Internet. It is not an absolute necessity in any case, but it is our finding that the learning outcome and acceptance by students is greatly enhanced in both applications when video is part of the user interface to the lecture or experiment.